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SOURCE                      Sunkan Tongshu.

Two of the prominent features of the 2-year economic program in North Korea are increased agricultural production and promotion of irrigation projects. With regard to increased agricultural products, 18,597 additional chongbo <sup>one</sup> chongbo equals 2.45 acres/ of land were planted in 1949, an increase of 0.8 percent over 1948. This additional acreage will be increased to 43,597 chongbo in 1950. The agricultural products needed in the light industries also will be increased by 43.4 percent in 1949 over 1946 and by 52.6 percent in 1950.

It is the intention of the government to do everything to bring about the proposed increase of agricultural products by clearing new land, reclaiming abandoned arable land, irrigating dry land, etc. To increase industrial raw materials special emphasis is being placed upon the production of flax, hemp, cotton, tobacco, etc.

The 2-year economic program calls for grain production in 1949 of 2,858,531 tons and 3,029,441 tons in 1950. Of this there will be 1,510,190 tons of rice in 1949 and 1,573,150 tons of rice in 1950. The outlook for cotton production in 1949 is estimated at about 48,155 tons and 56,415 tons in 1950. Flax production is estimated at about 6,568 tons in 1949 and 7,895 tons in 1950. Tobacco production in 1949 is estimated at about 13,228 tons and 15,267 tons in 1950.

We all realize the importance of fertilizer in farming. The Hungnam Fertilizer Company has pledged to produce and distribute a total of 263,435 tons of fertilizer in 1949.

With reference to farming equipment, North Korean farms today have more and better equipment than ever. For example, there are in North Korea today 26,200 threshing machines, over 58,000 weeding machines, more than 32,400 farm animals, 45 trucks, and 275,080 cattle.

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The 1949 irrigation plan calls for a new irrigation project in Pyongan Namdo and continuous work on 30 other projects undertaken previously. Those irrigation projects will supply water to about 7,340 chongbo of arable land. In 1950, this acreage will be increased by another 7,301 chongbo, accompanied by 11 new irrigation projects.

The total area benefited by irrigation in North Korea is 155,838 chongbo. The number of worker connected directly or indirectly with the North Korean irrigation system is as follows: 786,700 men working on new projects; 3,033,000 patriotic farmers giving their leisure time to various irrigation projects; 184,300 regular workers working on various projects; 186,500 farmers working on irrigated farm lands; and 604,500 laborers assisted by 1,137,000 farmers, working on land-reclamation. The government will invest 1,200,000,000 won for the proposed project, and agricultural production, upon the completion of all projects, is expected to be in the neighborhood of 1,573,000 tons of rice.

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